

CLAIMS

1. An imaging system comprising:
an image acquisition subsystem for performing
jobs on a worklist;
an operator interface;
5 a networking port for communicating with a remote
worklist broker on a network;
means for setting the state of each of a plural-
ity of worklist search fields in response to state
settings inputted via said operator interface;
10 task means for formulating a query for worklist
data corresponding to only worklist search fields
having either a first state or a second state;
means for initiating formulation of said query by
said task means in response to a search instruction
15 inputted via said operator interface; and
means for transferring said query to said
networking port.

2. The system as recited in claim 1, further
comprising a display screen and means for controlling
said display screen to display a worklist setup menu
in response to a first menu selection instruction
5 inputted via said operator interface, said worklist
setup menu comprising a list of search field names and
respective state fields, and said state setting means
comprising means for toggling each state field through
said first and second states and a third state in
10 response to clicking on said state field using said
operator interface.

3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein
said worklist setup menu further comprises a criteria
field associated with a search field name on said list
having a state field in said first or second state,

5 and said query formulated by said task means includes a criterion entered in said criteria field on said worklist setup menu using said operator interface.

4. The system as recited in claim 2, further comprising means for controlling said display screen to display a worklist menu in response to a second menu selection instruction inputted via said operator
5 interface, said worklist menu comprising at least one column heading, each column heading being a respective search field name on said worklist setup menu having said second state.

5. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality of display order fields associated with respective search field names on said list having state fields in
5 said second state, and said column headings are displayed on said worklist menu in the order determined by respective entries in said display order fields.

6. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a column heading, and said query formulated by said task means includes a criterion
5 entered in said criteria field on said worklist menu using said operator interface.

7. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a search initiation field, and said search instruction comprises clicking on said search initiation field
5 using said operator interface.

8. The system as recited in claim 4, further comprising means for receiving worklist data via said networking port in response to transfer of said query, wherein said worklist display control means controls
5 said display screen to display only subsets of said worklist data corresponding to worklist search fields having said second state, said displayed worklist data subsets being placed under corresponding column headings on said worklist menu.

9. An imaging system comprising:
an image acquisition subsystem for performing jobs on a worklist;
an operator interface;
5 a networking port for communicating with a remote worklist broker on a network; and
a computer programmed to perform the following steps:
10 (a) setting the state of each of a plurality of worklist search fields in response to state settings inputted via said operator interface;
(b) formulating a query for worklist data corresponding to only worklist search fields having either a first state or a second state in response to
15 a search instruction inputted via said operator interface; and
(c) transferring said query to said networking port.

10. The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a display screen, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the step of controlling said display screen to display a worklist setup menu
5 in response to a first menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist setup menu comprising a list of search field names and

respective state fields, and said step of setting states comprising the steps of toggling each state field through said first and second states and a third state in response to clicking on said state field using said operator interface.

11. The system as recited in claim 10, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a search field name on said list having a state field in said first or second state, 5 and said query formulated by said computer includes a criterion entered in said criteria field using said operator interface.

12. The system as recited in claim 10, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the step of controlling said display screen to display a worklist menu in response to a second menu selection 5 instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist menu comprising at least one column heading, each column heading being a respective search field name on said worklist setup menu having said second state.

13. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality of display order fields associated with respective search field names on said list having state fields in 5 said second state, and said column headings are displayed on said worklist menu in the order determined by respective entries in said display order fields.

14. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a column heading, and said query

includes a criterion entered in said criteria field on
5 said worklist menu using said operator interface.

15. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein
said worklist menu further comprises a search initia-
tion field, and said search instruction comprises
clicking on said search initiation field using said
5 operator interface.

16. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein
said computer is further programmed to perform the
steps of receiving worklist data via said networking
port in response to transfer of said query, and
5 controlling said display screen to display only
subsets of said worklist data corresponding to
worklist search fields having said second state, said
displayed worklist data subsets being placed under
corresponding column headings on said worklist menu.

17. A method for retrieving worklist data from
a remote location via a network, comprising the steps
of:

connecting a networking port of a job-performing
5 system to a network;

setting the state of each of a plurality of
worklist search fields in said job-performing system
in response to state settings inputted via an operator
interface of said job-performing system;

10 formulating a query for worklist data correspond-
ing to only worklist search fields having either a
first state or a second state in response to a search
instruction inputted via said operator interface; and
transferring said query to said networking port
15 with a destination address corresponding to a remotely
located worklist broker.

18. The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying a worklist setup menu on a display screen in response to a first menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist setup menu comprising a list of search field names and respective state fields, each state field toggling through said first and second states and a third state in response to clicking on said state field using said operator interface.

19. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a search field name on said list having a state field in said first or second state, and said query formulated by said computer includes a criterion entered in said criteria field using said operator interface.

20. The method as recited in claim 18, further comprising the step of displaying a worklist menu on said display screen in response to a second menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist menu comprising at least one column heading, each column heading being a respective search field name on said worklist setup menu having said second state.

21. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality of display order fields associated with respective search field names on said list having state fields in said second state, and said column headings are displayed on said worklist menu in the order determined by respective entries in said display order fields.

22. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a column heading, and said query includes a criterion entered in said criteria field on 5 said worklist menu using said operator interface.

23. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a search initiation field, and said search instruction comprises clicking on said search initiation field using said 5 operator interface.

24. The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps of receiving worklist data in response to transfer of said query, and displaying on said display screen only subsets of said worklist data 5 corresponding to worklist search fields having said second state, said displayed worklist data subsets being placed under corresponding column headings on said worklist menu.

25. A system comprising:
- an image acquisition subsystem for performing jobs on a worklist;
 - a display screen;
 - 5 an operator interface;
 - a networking port for communicating with a remote worklist broker on a network; and
 - a computer programmed to perform the following steps:
 - 10 (a) controlling said display screen to display a worklist setup menu in response to a first menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist setup menu comprising a list of search field names and respective state fields;

- 15 (b) setting the state of each of a plurality of worklist search fields identified by said search field names in response to toggling each state field through first through third states in response to clicking on said state field using said operator interface;
- 20 (c) formulating a query for worklist data corresponding to only worklist search fields having either said first state or said second state in response to a search instruction inputted via said operator interface; and
- 25 (d) transferring said query to said networking port.

26. The system as recited in claim 25, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the step of controlling said display screen to display a worklist menu in response to a second menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist menu comprising at least one column heading, each column heading being a respective search field name on said worklist setup menu having said second state.

27. The system as recited in claim 26, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality of display order fields associated with respective search field names on said list having state fields in said second state, and said column headings are displayed on said worklist menu in the order determined by respective entries in said display order fields.

28. The system as recited in claim 26, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the steps of receiving worklist data via said networking port in response to transfer of said query, and

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- 5 controlling said display screen to display only subsets of said worklist data corresponding to worklist search fields having said second state, said displayed worklist data subsets being placed under corresponding column headings on said worklist menu.

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